

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

- 1           1. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving target objects stored in a  
2 relational database to which an object model is mapped, the method comprising  
3 steps of:  
4           generating a retrieval query to read target objects for a collection of source  
5 objects, the collection of source objects having many-to-many relationships with  
6 the target objects, the collection of source objects and target objects being  
7 respectively stored in one or more source tables and target tables in the database,  
8 and the many-to-many relationship being defined in the database by using an  
9 intermediate join table of the source tables and the target tables;  
10          selecting join table information from the many-to-many join table relating  
11 to the collection of source objects and the target objects to enable matching of the  
12 target objects and the source objects using the join table information; and  
13          retrieving the matched target objects by executing the retrieval query on  
14 the database;  
15          wherein retrieving the matched target objects involves automatically  
16 generating the query, and wherein the matched target objects include only many-  
17 to-many target objects, whereby the matched target objects can be retrieved  
18 without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of the matched target objects.

- 1           2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising steps  
2 of:

3 specifying batch readable relationships on a source query for reading the  
4 collection of source objects;  
5 generating a nested query for reading related objects nested in the target  
6 objects;  
7 appending query information of the target objects to the nested query; and  
8 retrieving the related objects by executing the nested query.

1 3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the generating step  
2 comprises steps of:

3 obtaining a source expression tree relating to the collection of the source  
4 objects;  
5 building a target expression tree defined by the many-to-many mapping  
6 including a join between the target tables and the join table;  
7 combining the source expression tree and the target expression tree to  
8 produce a combined expression tree; and  
9 generating the retrieval query based on the combined expression tree.

1 4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the target  
2 expression tree building step obtains the target expression tree from mapping  
3 meta-data which contains information as to how object classes and relationships  
4 of the object model map to tables and foreign keys in the database.

1 5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the target  
2 expression tree building step obtains the target expression tree from mapping  
3 meta-data which includes a list of key and value pairs of the many-to-many join  
4 table.

1           6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the selecting step  
2 comprises steps of:  
3           executing the retrieval query on the database for reading the target objects;  
4           obtaining target object information and join table information from the  
5 join table; and  
6           appending the target object information and the join table information to  
7 the retrieval query.

1           7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the join table  
2 information including foreign key values and the appending step appends the  
3 foreign key values to the retrieval query.

1           8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the appending step  
2 appends the target table information and the join table information to a select  
3 clause of a select statement.

1           9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the retrieving step  
2 comprises steps of:  
3           obtaining the target objects; and  
4           populating relationships of the source objects with the target objects by  
5 comparing a primary key value of each source object with a foreign key value of  
6 each target object using the foreign key values stored in the retrieval query; and  
7 matching each source object with matched target objects.

1           10. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving objects stored in a  
2 relational database to which an object model is mapped, the method comprising  
3 steps of:

4 obtaining nested specification information representing joins relating to a  
5 source object and related objects which are joined with the source object with  
6 multi-level relationships;  
7 obtaining parent query information representing a parent query for reading  
8 one or more parent objects at a parent level;  
9 generating a nested query for querying objects of next lower level which is  
10 next lower than the parent level;  
11 appending to the nested query the parent query information and the joins  
12 using the nested specification information; and  
13 retrieving the objects of next lower level by executing the nested query on  
14 the database;  
15 wherein retrieving the objects involves automatically generating the nested  
16 query, and wherein the objects include only many-to-many target objects, whereby  
17 the objects can be retrieved without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of  
18 the objects.

1 11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the nested  
2 specification obtaining step obtains the nested specification information from  
3 mapping meta-data which contains information as to how object classes and  
4 relationships of the object model map to tables and foreign keys in the database.

1 12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a  
2 step of specifying batch readable relationships to the parent query for allowing  
3 batch reading of the related objects.

1 13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the specifying  
2 step comprises a step of determining the batch readable relationships based on the  
3 nested specification.

1           14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a  
2   step of setting automatic batch reading for automatically generating the nested  
3   query for reading objects of lower levels.

1           15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the generating  
2   step generates a single query for each type of relationships at each level.

1           16 (Canceled).

1 |           17. (Currently amended) A retrieval system for retrieving target objects  
2 | stored in a relational database to which an object model is mapped, the retrieval  
3 | system comprising:  
4 |       a query generator for generating a retrieval query to read target objects for  
5 | a collection of source objects, the collection of source objects having many-to-  
6 | many relationships with the target objects, the collection of source objects and  
7 | target objects being respectively stored in one or more source tables and target  
8 | tables in the database, and the many-to-many relationship being defined in the  
9 | database by using an intermediate join table of the source tables and the target  
10 | tables;  
11 |       a join table information handler for selecting join table information from  
12 | the many-to-many join table relating to the collection of source objects and the  
13 | target objects to enable matching of the target objects and the source objects using  
14 | the join table information; and  
15 |       a batch reading handler for retrieving the matched target objects by  
16 | executing the retrieval query on the database;  
17 |       wherein retrieving the matched target objects involves automatically  
18 | generating the query, and wherein the matched target objects include only many-

19 | to-many target objects, whereby the matched target objects can be retrieved  
20 without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of the matched target objects.

1           18. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the  
2 query generator comprises:  
3           an expression tree handler for obtaining a source expression tree relating  
4 to the collection of the source objects, and a target expression tree defined by the  
5 many-to-many mapping including a join between the target tables and the join  
6 table;  
7           an expression tree combiner for combining the source expression tree and  
8 the target expression tree to produce a combined expression tree for generating the  
9 retrieval query based on the combined expression tree.

1           19. (Original) The retrieving system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the  
2 expression tree handler obtains mapping meta-data which contains information as  
3 to how object classes and relationships of the object model map to tables and  
4 foreign keys in the database.

1           20. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 17, wherein  
2 the join table information handler obtains target object information and  
3 join table information from the join table; and  
4           the batch reading handler appends to the retrieval query target object  
5 information and the join table information.

1           21. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the  
2 join table information handler obtains foreign key values.

1           22. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the  
2 batch reading handler appends the foreign key values to the retrieval query.

1           23. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the  
2 batch reading handler has a comparator for comparing a primary key value of each  
3 source object with a foreign key value of each target object using the foreign key  
4 values appended to the retrieval query; and matching each source object with  
5 matched target objects.

1 |           24. (Currently amended) A retrieving system for retrieving objects stored  
2 in a relational database to which an object model is mapped, the retrieval system  
3 comprising:  
4           an information receiver for obtaining nested specification information  
5 representing joins relating to the source object and related objects which are  
6 joined with the source object with multi-level relationships;  
7           a query generator for generating a nested query for querying objects of  
8 next lower level to parent objects which are queried by a parent query; and  
9           a batch reading handler for appending to the nested query information of  
10 the parent query and the joins using the nested specification information, and  
11 retrieving the objects of next lower level by executing the nested query on the  
12 database;  
13           wherein retrieving the objects involves automatically generating the nested  
14 query, and wherein the objects include only many-to-many target objects, whereby  
15 the objects can be retrieved without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of  
16 the objects.

1           25. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the  
2 information receiver obtains the nested specification information from mapping

3 meta-data which contains information as to how object classes and relationships  
4 of the object model map to tables and foreign keys in the database.

1 26. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the  
2 batch reading handler has a batch reading setter for allowing batch reading of the  
3 related objects.

1 27. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the  
2 batch reading setter specifies batch readable relationships to the parent query for  
3 allowing batch reading.

1 28. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the  
2 batch reading setter determines the batch readable relationships based on the  
3 nested specification.

1 29. (Original) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the  
2 batch reading setter sets automatic batch reading for automatically generating the  
3 nested query for reading objects of lower levels.

1 30 (Canceled).

1 31. (Currently amended) Computer media storing the instructions or  
2 statements for use in the execution in a computer of a method method for  
3 retrieving target objects stored in a relational database to which an object model is  
4 mapped, the method comprising steps of:  
5 generating a retrieval query to read target objects for a collection of source  
6 objects, the collection of source objects having many-to-many relationships with  
7 the target objects, the collection of source objects and target objects being



8 respectively stored in one or more source tables and target tables in the database,  
9 and the many-to-many relationship being defined in the database by using an  
10 intermediate join table of the source tables and the target tables; selecting join  
11 table information from the many-to-many join table relating to the collection of  
12 source object and the target objects to enable matching of the target objects and  
13 the source objects using the join table information; retrieving the matched target  
14 objects by executing the retrieval query on the database;  
15 wherein retrieving the matched target objects involves automatically  
16 generating the query, and wherein the matched target objects include only many-  
17 to-many target objects, whereby the matched target objects can be retrieved  
18 without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of the matched target objects.

1 32. (Currently amended) Electronic signals for use in the execution in a  
2 computer of a method for retrieving target objects stored in a relational database  
3 to which an object model is mapped, the method comprising steps of:  
4 generating a retrieval query to read target objects for a collection of source  
5 objects, the collection of source objects having many-to-many relationships with  
6 the target objects, the collection of source objects and target objects being  
7 respectively stored in one or more source tables and target tables in the database,  
8 and the many-to-many relationship being defined in the database by suing an  
9 intermediate join table of the source tables and the target tables;  
10 selecting join table information from the many-to-many join table relating  
11 to the collection of source objects and the target objects to enable matching of the  
12 target objects and the source objects using the join table information;  
13 retrieving the matched target objects by executing the retrieval query on  
14 the database;  
15 wherein retrieving the matched target objects involves automatically  
16 generating the query, and wherein the matched target objects include only many-

17 | to-many target objects, whereby the matched target objects can be retrieved  
18 without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of the matched target objects.

1           33. (Currently amended) A computer program product for use in the  
2 execution in a computer of method for retrieving target objects stored in a  
3 relational database to which an object model is mapped, the product comprising:  
4           a module for generating a retrieval query to read target objects for a  
5 collection of source objects, the collection of source objects having many-to-many  
6 relationships with the target objects, the collection of source objects and target  
7 objects being respectively stored in one or more source tables and target tables in  
8 the database, and the many-to-many relationship being defined in the database by  
9 using an intermediate join table of the source tables and the target tables;  
10          a module of selecting join table information for the many-to-many join  
11 table relating to the collection of source objects and the target objects to enable  
12 matching of the target objects and the source objects using the join table  
13 information;  
14          a module for retrieving the matched target objects by executing the  
15 retrieval query on the database;  
16          wherein retrieving the matched target objects involves automatically  
17 generating the query, and wherein the matched target objects include only many-  
18 to-many target objects, whereby the matched target objects can be retrieved  
19 without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of the matched target objects.

1           34. (Currently amended) Computer media storing the instructions or  
2 statements for use in the execution in a computer of a method for retrieving  
3 objects stored in a relational database to which an object model is mapped, the  
4 method comprising steps of:

5           obtaining nested specification information representing joins relating to  
6   the source object and related objects which are joined with the source object with  
7   multi-level relationships;  
8           obtaining parent query information representing a parent query for reading  
9   one or more parent objects at a parent level;  
10          generating a nested query for querying objects of next lower level which is  
11   next lower than the parent level;  
12          appending to the nested query the parent query information and the joins  
13   using the nested specification information; and  
14          retrieving the object of next lower level by executing the nested query on  
15   the database;  
16          wherein retrieving the objects involves automatically generating the nested  
17   query, and wherein the objects include only many-to-many target objects, whereby  
18   the objects can be retrieved without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of  
19   the retrieved objects.

1           35. (Currently amended) Electronic signals for use in the execution in a  
2   computer of a method for retrieving objects stored in a relational database to  
3   which an object model is mapped, the method comprising steps of:  
4           obtaining nested specification information representing joins relating to  
5   the source object and related objects which are joined with the source object with  
6   multi-level relationships;  
7           obtaining parent query information representing a parent query for reading  
8   one or more parent objects at a parent level;  
9           generating a nested query for querying objects of next lower level which is  
10   next lower than the parent level;  
11          appending to the nested query the parent query information and the joins  
12   using the nested specification information; and

13           retrieving the object of next lower level by executing the nested query on  
14 the database;  
15           wherein retrieving the objects involves automatically generating the nested  
16 query, and wherein the objects include only many-to-many target objects. whereby  
17 the objects can be retrieved without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of  
18 the retrieved objects.

1           36. (Currently amended) A computer program product for use in the  
2 execution in a computer of method for retrieving objects stored in a relational  
3 database to which an object model is mapped, the product comprising:  
4           a module for obtaining nested specification information representing joins  
5 relating to the source object and related objects which are joined with the source  
6 object with multi-level relationships;  
7           a module for obtaining parent query information representing a parent  
8 query for reading one or more parent objects at a parent level;  
9           a module for generating a nested query for querying objects of next lower  
10 level which is next lower than the parent level;  
11           a module for appending to the nested query the parent query information  
12 and the joins using the nested specification information; and  
13           a module for retrieving the objects of next lower level by executing the  
14 nested query on the database;  
15           wherein retrieving the objects involves automatically generating the nested  
16 query, and wherein the objects include only many-to-many target objects. whereby  
17 the objects can be retrieved without requiring the user to provide an explicit list of  
18 the retrieved objects.